

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KYL). Without objection, it is so ordered.

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VICE PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION FOR DICK CHENEY

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. President, in the last part of our time here I want to follow up a little bit on your comments about the prospects for the Vice Presidential nomination for Dick Cheney. Partly, I guess, that is because it is a personal thing. As you mentioned, Dick Cheney is from Wyoming. Indeed, he is still a resident and now I understand he is voting in Wyoming. Certainly he is a friend. As a matter of fact, I took Dick Cheney's place in the House when he took the job as Secretary of Defense. I was more delighted about his promotion than anyone else, I suppose.

Aside from that, I guess I am really impressed with the opportunities that might bring about. Of course, it is up to the Governor, Governor Bush, to do whatever he chooses. He has not yet made an announcement. But it seems to me it is satisfying to think of someone being on that ticket who is just a basic person, who has demonstrated his ability to do so many things in government and outside of government. I think it is kind of unusual in today's political scene for it to be someone who just says it like it is, not the great spin.

I was thinking about that yesterday. I was hearing some things on the radio, trying to make one thing sound like another. That is not the way Dick Cheney does things. He just says it.

He has a great background in government. He worked in the White House, was Chief of Staff. By the way, I saw him at the airport in Denver. He seems to be doing well. Of course, he was in the House of Representatives, I think, for six terms—a number of terms, anyway. He rose to leadership there. He was selected then, as you know, to be Secretary of Defense. He did a super job in the gulf war and the activities there.

So it just seems to me he would bring to anyone's ticket this ideal of a strong, stable person, knowledgeable, ready to move in and do the kinds of things that are required of the leadership of this country.

I guess I am a cheerleader for Dick Cheney. Hopefully, we will have a chance to continue to do that over the next several months.

Mr. President, our time is nearly expired. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. COLLINS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

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AUTHORIZING THE PRINTING OF CERTAIN MATERIALS IN HONOR OF PAUL COVERDELL

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 341, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 341) authorizing the printing of certain materials in honor of Paul Coverdell.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 341) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 341

Resolved, That the eulogies and other related materials concerning the Honorable Paul Coverdell, late a Senator from the State of Georgia, be printed as a Senate Document.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I note, again, for all Senators, that this authorizes the printing of certain materials to honor Senator Paul Coverdell. We will designate a specific period of time later on this week so Senators who have not spoken will have an opportunity to do so. Of course, we will then pull together into a package all of the statements that have been made about Senator Coverdell for his widow, Nancy Coverdell.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, we have worked this morning, in some ways long distance because Senators who have been involved in these discussions are on their way back, and we have been trying to get agreements on how to proceed. We have not gotten it worked out yet. But in a full measure of precaution, because we want to make sure we are doing everything we can to complete our work this week, it is necessary for me to go ahead and move to call up an appropriations bill and the intelligence authorization bill and file cloture. They would then be ripened on Wednesday. We would be prepared to vote on cloture, if necessary, on Wednesday.

It is my hope that, through communications and meetings that will take

place—perhaps later on this day or in the morning—we will be able to vitiate that because there is no need, really, to have to invoke cloture on the motions to proceed. But it is the only way I can begin the discussion and be assured that we get to the substance of these two bills some time this week.

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UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 4871

Mr. LOTT. So, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4871, the Treasury-Postal Service and general government appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Objection.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

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ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I now move that the Senate stand in adjournment for 1 minute, and when the Senate reconvenes, the morning hour be deemed to have expired, no resolutions come over under the rule, the call of the calendar be dispensed with, and the time for the two leaders be reserved.

The motion was agreed to, and at 3:21 p.m., the Senate adjourned until 3:22 p.m. the same day.

The Senate met at 3:22 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable SUSAN COLLINS, a Senator from the State of Maine.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I note that we had hoped this week to complete action on some additional judicial nominations, to complete at least two appropriations bills and begin a third one, and have the first cloture vote on China PNTR. It is still our hope, but at this time, at least, there is objection from our colleagues on the Democratic side of the aisle to proceeding on appropriations bills. We have a lot we can do this week, and I certainly hope we will do that. Under this action we have just taken, we can have some discussion by the chairman of the Treasury, Postal Service appropriations subcommittee. I see the manager, the chairman of the subcommittee, is here. I am sure he will want to make some comments and outline what is included in the bill.

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TREASURY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001—MOTION TO PROCEED

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. LOTT. Madam President, I move to proceed to H.R. 4871, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.